



# **LINCOLN CHAFEE**

## **U.S. SENATOR**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Debbie Rich**  
**401 453-5071**

## **CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$222,203 IN FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION GRANTS**

**Funding to Combat Drunk Driving and Boost Seat Belt Use**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded incentive grants totaling \$222,203 to the State of Rhode Island. The funds are for programs to deter alcohol-impaired driving and to increase the use of safety belts and child restraints.

Rhode Island will receive a Section 405 grant in the amount of \$75,762 and a \$146,441 Section 410 grant, which were authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), and continued under the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004.

“These grants are critical to continue to address highway safety programs at the state and local community levels,” said Senator Chafee. “Although progress has been made in increasing seat belt use, more needs to be done to prevent tragedies such as one that recently took the lives of an East Providence couple who were not wearing their seat belts. Their three children were wearing seat belts or were riding in car seats and survived the crash with minor cuts and bruises.”

Data from the National Highway Safety Administration shows that more than 14,000 lives are saved by safety belts and another 300 lives are saved by child restraints every year. Another study has found that there is an average of one alcohol-related fatality every thirty minutes.

Section 405 funds are used to implement strategic highway safety programs such as enforcing safety belt and child passenger safety laws, and child safety seat inspection stations. Section 410 funds may be used to enforce impaired driving laws, conduct public information campaigns, and provide training to law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and judges.